Special package for Textile Industry

2304. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the special package announced for the textile industry;

(b) whether any textile asset recast fund is being ,created; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFTEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) In the Budget proposals 2003-04, excise duty has been reduced on almost all the textile items such as non-cotton spun yarns, woven and knit fabrics, readymade garments, made-ups, etc. A 'Powerloom Package for Modernisation' has also been announced. This aims at enlarging the scope of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to cover powerlooms, to create a better working environment and obtain higher productivity besides providing insurance cover to the powerloom workers as a welfare measures, etc.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, the proposal has not yet been finalised.

Export of readymade garments to Canada

2305. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of readymade garments to Canada is on the decrease;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase the exports to Canada?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFTEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) As per available DGCI&S data, the readymade garment exports to Canada during the period April-November, 2002 amounted to US$ 160.01 million as compared to export of US$ 136.38 million during the corresponding period of 2001, recording a growth of 17.3%.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.